

Monument Ridge Bullhog Implementation Phase I & II

Project ID: 3758

Status: Current

Fiscal Year: 2017

Submitted By: N/A

Total Acres: 2,000

Project Manager: Hank Barela

PM Agency: Bureau of Land Management

PM Office: Vernal

Lead: Bureau of Land Management

WRI Region: Northeastern

Description:

2000 acres of bullhog treatment located at Monument Ridge in northeast Utah. Project is designed to remove hazardous fuels and improve/enhance habitat for sagegrouse and other sagebrush obligate species in the Bookcliffs area.

Location:

Treatment is located on Monument Ridge.

PROJECT NEED

Need For Project:

Treatment will be improve sagebrush habitat for sagegrouse, improve vegetative resiliency to drought, and lower fire intensity in the event of wildfire.

Objectives:

The Monument Ridge treatment is designed to remove 100% of juniper from 2000 acres of the sage community to:

- * Maintain areas that provide for important ecological functions and habitat for Greater sage grouse.
- * Maintain important sagebrush habitat for a variety of wildlife species in the project area.
- * Reduce the buildup of hazardous fuels by removing pinyon pine and Utah juniper encroachment into sagebrush communities.
- * Reduce the risk of large fire events.
- * Reduce fire behavior intensity characteristics in the area for more favorable suppression activities in the event of a wildland fire.

Threats / Risks:

Threats/Risks include loss to sagebrush habitat by encroachment, drought, and wildfire.

Relation To Management Plan:

Area is identified in Vernal District BLM Fire Management Plan (FMP) and Range Management Plan (RMP).

Fire / Fuels:

The change in fuel loadings would be expected to result in a decline in the degree of fire severity that occurs from any unplanned fire event, as the residual shrubs, forbs, and grasses typically produce shorter flame lengths and reduced rates of spread of the flaming fire front. With an expected decline in fire severity, the understory species are more likely to survive an unplanned fire event.

Water Quality/Quantity:

An accelerated recovery of vegetation would reduce the potential for any post fire erosion events. Treatments of this type typically result in increased ground moisture due to less trees using the resource.

Compliance:

The proposed action is in conformance with the existing Vernal RMP (2008) and is consistent with the Uintah County General Plan. The proposed action alternative will not result in any undue degradation to threatened or endangered species, cultural resources, or matters pertaining to Native American religious freedoms or their customs. The proposed action is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act and the Clean Water Act.

Methods:

Mechanically remove vegetation with the use of horizontal drum shredder (bullhog).

Monitoring:

line intercept transects
stems per acre plots
photo plots

Partners:

UDWR
Uintah & Ouray Agency - BIA
State of Utah

Future Management:

Dependent of funding Monument Ridge is a focus area for outlying years treatments.

Domestic Livestock Benefit:

Treatment implementation will increase grasses and forbs which benefit both wild and domestic grazers.

BUDGET	WRI/DWR	Other	Budget Total	In-Kind Total	Grand Total
	\$600,000.00	\$0.00	\$600,000.00	\$0.00	\$600,000.00

Item	Description	WRI	Other	In-Kind	Year
Contractual Services	2000 acres bullhog @ \$300.00 an acre.	\$600,000.	\$0.00	\$0.00	2017

FUNDING	WRI/DWR	Other	Funding Total	In-Kind Total	Grand Total
	\$352,839.00	\$289,200.00	\$642,039.00	\$0.00	\$642,039.00

Source	Phase	Description	Amount	Other	In-Kind	Year
BLM Fuels (Green River)	N646	1036 acres bullhog @ 300.00 an acre.	\$352,839.	\$0.00	\$0.00	2017
Ute Tribe		964 acres bullhog @ 300.00 an acre. Requesting funding from Treaty Trust Lands / U&O BIA. Funding will go through WRI for contracting of Phase II treatment.	\$0.00	\$289,200.	\$0.00	2017

EXPENSE	WRI/DWR	Other	Expense Total	In-Kind Total	Grand Total
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Source	Phase	Description	Amount	Other	In-Kind	Year
BLM Fuels (Green River)	N646	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Ute Tribe		N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	

SPECIES

Species	"N" Rank	HIG/F Rank
Mule Deer		1
Threat		Impact
Inappropriate Fire Frequency and Intensity		High
Elk		2
Threat		Impact
No Threat		NA
Greater Sage-grouse	N3	1
Threat		Impact
Inappropriate Fire Frequency and Intensity		Very High
Domestic Livestock		N/A
Threat		Impact

Species	"N" Rank	HIG/F Rank
Threat		Impact
No Threat		NA
American Bison	N4	2
Threat		Impact
Not Listed		NA

HABITATS

Habitat
Mountain Sagebrush
Threat
Problematic Plant Species – Native Upland
Impact
Very High

PROJECT COMMENTS

Comment	01/25/2016	Type: Project	Commenter	Miles Hanberg
This comment has been deleted by author or admin.				
Comment	01/27/2016	Type: Project	Commenter	Leah Lewis
Your project details could use elaboration. Is your goal of this project to remove all tree canopy cover within the designated polygon to 0%?				
Comment	01/29/2016	Type: Project	Commenter	Hank Barela
I have expanded on the project details to include your question.				
Comment	01/27/2016	Type: Project	Commenter	Leah Lewis
One of your primary needs listed under Need for Project is to "improve sagebrush habitat for sagegrouse." Why did you select this area specifically to improve Greater Sage-grouse habitat rather than treating acres inside designated general Greater Sage-grouse habitat? It appears from the imagery that the acres just adjacent to this project, within sage-grouse occupied habitat, also has some PJ encroachment. Your project is currently only treating 8% of the general sage-grouse habitat as identified by BLM, with the remaining 92% outside of designated sage-grouse habitat. Maybe these treatments could be better selected to benefit more of the current Greater sage-grouse habitat?				
Comment	01/29/2016	Type: Project	Commenter	Hank Barela
Treatments in areas of high importance to GRSG have been completed in the area that are not reflected on the WRI map by the BLM-Green River District Fuels Program. The Monument Ridge proposal will expand on this by creating a fire break adjacent to those areas and also expand usable habitat to all the benefiting species.				

COMPLETION

Start Date:

End Date:

FY Implemented:

2017

FY Completed:

Final Methods:
N/A

Project Narrative:
N/A

Future Management:
N/A

Map Features

ID	Feature Category	Action	Treatment/Type
5059	Terrestrial Treatment Area	Bullhog	Full size
5060	Terrestrial Treatment Area	Bullhog	Full size